

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 CA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01

SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 GSA-02 HA-05 MCT-02 OPR-02 /084 W

-----071750 091732Z /40

O R 091550Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7744

INFO NSC WASHDC

USICA WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

USSOUTHCOM QUARRY HTS, CANAL ZONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4244

DEPT. PASS PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT ELAB, SHUM, NU

SUBJECT: SITREP 10: 8 SEPTEMBER

SUMMARY:THE STRIKE APEARS TO HAVE LOST STRENGTH IN MANAGUA
ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS LIKELY TO EXTEND INTO THE COMING WEEK.
RUMORS INTENSIFIED THAT THE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL WITNESS A
FAMAJOR FSLN ACTION IN THE CAPITAL. SEVERAL MAJOR OPPOSITION
LEADERS REMAIN INCUSTODY. END SUMMARY.

1. STRIKE: THE MAJOR SHOPPING CENTERS REMAIN CLOSED, BUT
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NEARBY PULPERIAS (SMALL STORES) APPEARED TO BE DOING SOMEWHAT
MORE BUSINESS THAN ON PREVIOUS DAYS. SEARS REPORTS
THAT ITS SALES FORCE REFUSES TO REPORT FOR WORK, BUT
THAT NO OTHER PRESSURE HAS BEEN APPLIED TO FORCE ITS
CLOSURE. ACREDITA (LOCATED NEARBY), THE LOCAL VISA
CREDIT CARD COMPANY, REMAINS OPEN AS USUAL AND EMPLOYEES
REPORT RECEIVING NO THREATS. THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WILL BEGIN PUBLISHING A DAILY BULLETIN AS IT FEELS
NEWSPAPER REPORTING IS INACCURATE. TODAY'S ISSUE NOT
YET AVAILABLE. CHAMBER REPORTS SAME PERCENTAGE OF STORES
SHUT TODAY. TROPIGAS, A MAJOR LPG FIRM, IS MAKING
DELIVERIES ON A COD-ONLY BASIS. ALONG THE INDUSTRIAL
NORTH HIGHWAY, MORE INDUSTRIES APPEARED OPEN, ALTHOUGH
A SIGNIFIMCANT PORTION REMAINED CLOSED. OTHERS, OSTENSIBLY
CLOSED, COULD BE SEEN WORKING BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.
SOME MEDIUM-SIZED FIRMS HAVE RE-OPENED.

2. FINANCIAL: ECON SOURCES REPORT THAT FEW STORES ARE
ACCEPTING CHECKS FOR PURCHASES. LA PRENSA, IN YESTERDAY'S
EDITION, MADE THE SAME ALLEGATION. TODAY'S SURVEY
REVEALED MORE EMPLOYEES ON THE JOB AT BANIC HEADQUARTERS
THAN PROVIOUSLY, ALTHOUGH APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT
REMAINED ABSENT.

3. POLITICAL: BASED ON PRESS, CPDH AND EMB SOURCES,
THE FOLLOWING OPPOSITION LEADERS REMAIN IN CUSTODY:
ADOLFO CALERO, COCA-COLA AND PCN-A (ARRESTED MONDAY);
PDERO QUINTANILLA, MLC (ARRESTED LAST WEEKEND);
SAMUEL BARRETTA ARGUELLO, INDE (ARRESTED MONDAY);
ADOLFO EVERSTZ, PSN-SANCHEZ FACTION (ARRESTED MONDAY);
ROBERTO JOSE PEREZ, PSC-"LEGAL" FACTION (ARRESTED LAST
FRIDAY); DAVID OROZCO, PSC-"NON-LEGAL" FACTION
(ARRESTED WEDNESDAY); IVAN DE JESUS PERREIRA, MLC,
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LEON (ARRESTED LAST WEEKEND); SANTIAGO RIVAS HASLAM,
UDEL, MATAGALPA (ARRESTED LAST WEEKEND); HERNALDO
ZUNIGAS MONTENGRO, ANC, MASAYA (ARRESTED SUNDAY).
LATE TODAY, EMB LEARNED THAT ANTONIO LACAYO FIALLOS,
INDE (ARRESTED MONDAY), IS NOW FREE. ADDITIONALLY,
THE CPDH REPORTS TWO PSC ("LEGAL"FACTION) MEMBERS, LUIS
GUILLERMO LOPEZ AND MIGUEL ANGEL MANZANARES, ALLEGED
TORTURE DURING THEIR 29 AUGUST - 2 SEPTEMBER
ARREST. CPDH ESTIMATES 400 TOTAL ARRESTS THROUGHOUT
COUNTRY IN RECENT DAYS. THIS FIGURE IS UNCONFIRMED.
UDEL ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE TODAY CITING THE COMBINATION OF
INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE
(I.E., OAS MEETING), ECONIMIC EFFECTS OF STRIKE, AND
LACK OF IMF STAND-BY AGREEMENT AS BRINGING ANTI-SOMOZA
STRUGGLE TO BRINK OF SUCCESS. ALFONSO ROBELO (MDN)
AND RAFAEL CORDOVA RIVAS (UDEL), IN SEPARATE INTERVIEWS
REPORTED IN LA PRENSA YESTERDAY, CLAIMED SUCCESS FOR
THE STRIKE.

4. DISTRURBANCES: MASAYA TODAY WAS THE SCENE OF A
DEMONSTRATION INSUPPORT OF COSTA RICAN PRIEST JOSE
MARIA PACHECO, ARRESTED YESTERDAY FOR INVOLVEMENT IN

THE STOCKPILING OF WEAPONS IN MASAYA. RADIO X REPORTED
PACHECO'S DEPARTATION. AS OF NOON, MASAYA WAS REPORTED
TRANQUIL.

5. LABOT: THE CGT(I), CTN, AND CUS ISSUED A JOINT
STATEMENT YESTERDAY ATWTACKING THE GON-SPONSORED LABOR
FEDERATION, CTT(0), AND PLEDGING UNSWERVING SUPPORT
FOR THE GENERAL STRIKE. EMB HAS RECEIVED REPORTS VIA
AID THAT, DESPITE REPORTS OF SETTLEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL
WORKER'S STRIKE, MEDICAL SERVICE IS DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN
IN MANAGUA. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS OF PEOPLE BEING TURNED
AWAY FROM HOSPITALS ARE ALSO CIRCULATING.

6. OTHER: PAN AMERICAN'S EVENING
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FLIGHT IS AGAIN LANDING AT AIRPORT. PAN AM HAS
REPORTED NO FURTHER OPERATING DIFFICULTIES.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE STRIKE HAS BEGUN TO SHOW THE
FIRST SIGNS OF FALTERING, CLEARLY, IT IS NOT OVER.
HOWEVER, A MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS WHAT FORM, IF ANY,
THE RUMORED FSLN ACTION WILL TAKE AND THE GN'S RESPONSE
TO IT. THE COMMERCIAL SECTOR'S DEMAND FOR CASH PAYMENTS
MAY INDICATE A DESIRE TO ACCUMULATE AS MANY LIQUID ASSETS
AS POSSIBLE IN ANTICIPATION OF CONTINUING UNREST AND
DESTABILIZATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SITREP, POLITICAL STABILITY, GENERAL STRIKES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU04244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780368-0105
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780984/aaaacrpr.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4d7a7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1493480
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITREP 10: 8 SEPTEMBER SUMMARY:THE STRIKE APEARS TO HAVE LOST STRENGTH IN MANAGUA ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS
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TAGS: PINS, PINT, ELAB, SHUM, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4d7a7053-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014